



**House of Representatives  
Standing Committee on Communications**

Chair: Ms Belinda Neal MP  
Deputy Chair: Mrs Kay Hull MP

## **ACMA to appear before Cyber Crime Inquiry**

The Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), the agency responsible for regulation of broadcasting, internet, radiocommunications and telecommunications in Australia, will appear at a House of Representatives Communications Committee's public hearing for its Inquiry into Cyber Crime on Wednesday, 21 October.

The ACMA will appear and answer questions about the Australian Internet Security Initiative (AISI) implemented by the agency in November 2005 to combat botnet activity. The agency will provide information on the prevalence of botnet infection in Australia and measures being taken to protect Australian internet users.

Committee Chair Belinda Neal said, "Evidence to the Committee so far indicates that the spread of botnets is the most common device used by cyber criminals to obtain personal information about people. Over 10,000 Australian computers are infected with botnets everyday. As a society we are increasingly dependent on the internet for daily transactions and information so the public needs to be made aware of the dangers of this infection and the steps they can take to guard their personal details and privacy."

"One example is the Conficker worm which first appeared in November 2008 and has continued to mutate and expand. The ACMA is working with international partners to protect Australian internet users from the affects of this worm but consumers need to realise that they can help protect themselves from such dangers by implementing simple e-security measures."

The Committee's public hearing will be held **Wednesday, 21 October 2009, 12.30 pm to 2 pm in Committee Room 1R4**. The hearing will be audio webcast on:  
<http://webcast.aph.gov.au/livebroadcasting/>

Further information on the inquiry, including the terms of reference can be obtained from the Committee's web site: [www.aph.gov.au/coms](http://www.aph.gov.au/coms) or from the Secretariat on (02) 6277 4601.

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

**Media comment: please contact Committee Chair Ms Belinda Neal MP on (02) 6277 4971**

**Background: contact the Inquiry Secretary (02) 6277 2300**